

M003/025

BURLEY RANGER DISTRICT  
USDA - FS - Sawtooth National Forest

To: Lynn Kunzler  
Fax #: 801 359 3940  
Date: 1/8/96  
From: Gr. Struthers

SUBJECT Bowen's

MESSAGE Here is the last bit of stuff  
I got from them. I didn't put  
in the Map of Ops they had  
submitted to you

Page 1 of 16 pages

If you do not receive all of the pages, please call Gordon, at (208) 678-0430.

BURLEY RANGER DISTRICT  
ROUTE # 3, 3650 OVERLAND AVE.  
BURLEY, IDAHO 83318-3242

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Gordon Struthers  
Burley Ranger District  
Rt. 3, 3850 Overland Ave.  
Burley, Idaho 83318-3242

Dec. 13, 1995

Dear Gordon,

On Monday, Dec. 11, we visited Lynn Kunzler to submit our Plan of Operation for the Lynn Spring Quarry Area, and to obtain a copy of our Surface Facilities Map for the Dove Creek Quarry Area. We learned at that time that Lynn had not yet forwarded a copy of this map to you. We assumed that he sent a copy along with the form for the POO last summer to you. Lynn promised to forward a copy of the map to you immediately.

As you review the map I'm certain that much of the information you requested in your letter dated Nov. 17, 1995 will be there shown. I have also included a complete soil survey from the soil conservation office for your inspection and file. It is most thorough as you will know. I thought it interesting that all of the areas where excavation is planned are of the Nielson-Bickmore families-rock out crop association (54) where the suitability for range seeding is "poor".

In paragraph two, lines three and four of your letter of Nov. 17, you point out that a written request is required to "modify" a POO. We were not modifying our Plan as submitted with reference to the most recent excavation (access road and quarry). A glance at the surface facilities map clearly shows this area as an intended site for operation. All areas shaded in blue on the map are intended quarry sites pertinent to the Plan of Operation for the Dove Creek Quarry Area. All so marked areas need to have whatever studies, surveys, etc. completed so that work and development can begin on them. The same is true of the access routes, soil storage areas, and the like. This is the reason for submitting the map, or so we would think. On lines 11 and 12 of the same paragraph you have offered some sound advice. By showing on the map all intended areas at this time, we hope we are streamlining matters.

I will now address your letter of Aug. 7, 1995 and the "completeness checklist" you faxed to Oil, Gas, and Mining on Nov. 17, 1995 and subsequently forwarded to me. In paragraph 2 you list 3 key points. First, the surface facts map should clear up any question as to improved location for roads, and any permanent campsites.

As to the subject of re-seeding, we realize the possibility that the "natural method" as contained in the Plan may not be adequate. However, we would like to consult an outside expert on whether or not "weeds only" would be the result. It is difficult to conceive of mulching certain of the disturbed areas. According to the soil, the surface of the quarry areas are comprised principally of quartzite material gravel, cobbles, and stones. Not to mention at or above surface bedrock, or solid ledges. As I understand it, the operator is to "return" the lands to their previous state through the reclamation effort. The operator is not liable to "create" a previously non-existent surface. In areas where the soil is adequate, natural reseeding of many positive species has and will take place. An example of this can be seen parallel to the existing access road which leaves the county road at the turn-off for Clark's Basin from the old Forest Service boundary (gate) south to the narrow, ledge lined portion of said road. In the fall of 1991, we graded a road parallel, and on the east side of the existing road, to escape the narrow, winding, and constantly rock strewn route. We later abandoned this road at the request of neighboring interests. Many, many types of plant, grass, and forb quickly took up residence thereon, and flourishes to the point where, in some portions of the abandoned road, one must look closely for evidence that it ever existed. No soil, to bad soil will not grow much of anything, anywhere. Our contention is that natural re-seeding will indeed take place in those areas where pre-existing soils, when replaced through reclamation, are adequate.

There are areas within the Plan that call for excavation, which do contain soils adequate for stockpiling and reseeding. Such a possible area is that just west of the present equipment park area. Also, portions of some of the access roads have soils which would qualify. In these incidences, soil stockpiling, and subsequent replacement will certainly take place, and be completed.

A listing of the equipment and vehicles to be used incident to this Plan is as follows: D-8 or comparable bulldozer, 2 to 4 track-back-hoe excavators, Semi-Tractor trailers (whatever number is required to remove material at the desired rate or pace), 2 to 3 mobile air compressors, track-drill, jack-hammers, bulk-haul dump-truck, Bob-tailed tractor, 1-ton 4X4 Trucks, 2 large rubber tired wheel loaders, fork-lift, 65,000,000lb. mechanical scales, pelletizing and packaging materials, tools, and mechanical maintenance truck. At times it may be necessary to bring other tools, materials, or vehicles on the sight which may not be listed here.

At the submittal of the Plan of Operation, no camp is planned for location on Forest Service administered lands. An "occasional" camp will be situated on deeded lands. This camp will be comprised of one or two travel trailers. There will be no long term (weeks and months on end) occupancy of this camp. It will be chiefly for overnight occupancy from time to time. As the project area is enlarged and further developed, we may amend this Plan to include plans for a permanent camp facility. The occasional camp will be located just south and east of the spring which is immediately south of the Forest Service line.

With reference to the operation on deeded lands adjacent to the before mentioned spring, prior to additional disturbance on the ledge located just southeast of the spring, a galvanized culvert of adequate diameter and length will be installed to insure the unrestricted flow of whatever water should occur in amounts great enough to cause a flow. Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining should suggest length and diameter of culvert.

Trash incident to the operation will be deposited in receptacles comprised of topless 55 gal. drums, and removed to the local land fill on a weekly basis, or when 3/4s full. Receptacles will be placed near the equipment parking area, and in the occasional camp area, with location taking into consideration strong winds, and active equipment.

I'm not sure what is meant by "need to make provisions for CR survey. I understand that it is a cultural resource survey, but have no idea what 'Need to make provisions' is alluding to. There is a question mark appearing after "operators expense" at the end of the CR comments on the memo sent from you to Oil, Gas, and Mining. It is the National Forest and the general tax paying public who, by definition of Cultural Resource, stand to benefit from any findings of a cultural nature on the sight. It makes no sense to charge the cost of such an undertaking to the minerals operator, when, if by chance something was encountered of a cultural nature incident to operation of the quarry it would become the possession of the People, and by it's discovery, would likely shut mineral operations down indefinitely in the area of it's discovery. To assess cost for the CR on the mineral operator would represent a new low for bureaucratic nonsense. It is difficult to imagine how such could even be considered. But, if folks will go to the lengths of planting artifacts on a sight, then nothing is a surprise.

I would dare bet that the actual scheduling of your specialists is not open to public review. Considering the gravity and importance of speedily completing the balance of requirements of the Dove Creek Quarry POO, I am intensely interested in what their present involvement is. It is difficult to understand how they could be so tied up as to not be able to address our situation further until the summer of 1996. Where is the fellow who found the arrowheads? He seemed to be out on the sight in a flash when it came time to locate antiquities. I don't mean to sound less than respectful, but this delay in attention to our POO is hard to swallow. Especially when we were taken so to task by the involved governmental agencies, with reference to getting the thing submitted in the first place. Is it possible to obtain a copy of the tentative scheduling of Forest Service specialists from the present, through to the summer of 1996? If so, we would request such a copy at your earliest convenience. If not, please explain why.

I have attempted to include the bulk of information which, according to letters and memos, you were lacking. I am confident that you are now in possession of the surface facilities map. If you have not yet received it, please let me know and I will see that you receive it forthwith.

Sincerely,

*Bill Bown*

Bill Bown

Gordon Struthers  
Burley Ranger District  
Sawtooth National Forest  
3650 South Overland Ave.  
Burley, Idaho 83318-3242

Dec. 14, 1995

Dear Gordon,

Accompanying is a copy of the Lynn Spring Quarry Area Plan of Operation for your review and files. I will send you a copy of the series three soil survey in a couple of days. I have delivered a like copy to Lynn Kunzler at DOGM. He also has a surface facilities map which we prepared for the area. If you do not receive a copy of this map in the next few days, perhaps you should contact him with regards to receiving one. If he is not able to get you a copy please let me know. We were assured that the different agencies involved could forward pertinent information, including maps, to one another in an effort to streamline the process.

Dad has told me that it was conveyed to him, that we have until Dec. 31, 1995 to take material from the Lynn Spring Quarry. Am I to understand that following this date, we will be restricted from the area until the recently submitted P00 is completed and approved? A process that, by your own calculations, will likely take two years time?

I understand how the Forest may be a bit testy where this area is concerned, by virtue of our lack of punctuality in repairing the boundary fence as directed, and also, by our "failure" to perform such reclamation as to bring the area disturbed to the five acre or less standard as per the NOI submitted a couple of years ago. I feel these are the only areas in which we erred. We may have excavated beyond the five acre minimum, but it was unintentional. We do not have a surface estimator on the pay-roll who can figure the amount of disturbance each day at quittin' time. The north portion of the quarry is an old excavation, dating back to 1977. The old plan clearly shows and describes the south quarry area in text and map. This was not in violation of the NOI. as it was charged by the Forest to have been. We remain convinced that there is not a total of over five acres disturbed in the area. We would like to conduct a surface disturbance survey with an independent consultant. We feel that all surface disturbance surveys should be conducted by independent consultants, in the presence of all those involved, including the minerals operator.

DAVE CREEK QUARRY PROJECT AREA

[Joins sheet 4]

113°37'30" 41°52'30"



12--Bullump loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes. This very deep and well drained soil is on hillsides and along valley bottoms of the Dove Creek Mountains. It formed in alluvium and colluvium derived dominantly from quartzite and mica schist. Slopes are linear and convex, mostly east and south facing and 200 to 400 feet in length. The present vegetation is dominantly antelope bitterbrush, mountain big sagebrush, and Idaho fescue. Elevation is 6,000 to 6,800 feet. The average annual precipitation is about 12 to 16 inches, the mean annual air temperature is 41 to 45 degrees F., and the average freeze-free period is 80 to 90 days.

Typically, 10 percent of the surface is covered with gravel. The surface layer is very dark grayish brown loam 8 inches thick. The subsurface layer is dark grayish brown loam 8 inches thick. The upper part of the subsoil is brown and yellowish brown very gravelly clay loam 30 inches thick, the lower part to a depth of 60 inches is light yellowish brown very cobbly sandy clay loam.

Included in this unit are small areas of Acord, Codquin, Collard, and Crooked Creek soils. Acord soils are cobbly throughout the profile and are on convex ridges under low sagebrush. The shallow Codquin soils are on escarpments of drainageways under juniper. Collard soils have dark colors less than 20 inches thick and are lower in the landscape under Wyoming big sagebrush and Indian ricegrass. Crooked Creek soils are poorly drained and are in drainageways and wet concave areas under tufted hairgrass and sedges. Included areas make up about 20 percent of the total acreage.

Permeability of the Bullump soil is moderately slow. Available water capacity is about 8 to 10.5 inches. Water supplying capacity is 8 to 12 inches. Effective rooting depth is 60 inches or more. The organic matter content of the surface layer is about 3 to 7 percent. Runoff is medium, and the hazard of water erosion is moderate.

This unit is used mainly for rangeland and wildlife habitat.

The potential plant community on the Bullump soil is 50 percent grasses, 15 percent forbs, and 35 percent shrubs. Important plants are antelope bitterbrush, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, and mountain snowberry.

The suitability for livestock grazing is good. When the desirable forage plants are almost depleted, brush management and reseeding may be used to improve the rangeland vegetation. Suitability for range seeding is good.

This map unit is in capability subclass VIe, nonirrigated, and in Upland Loam (Browse) range site.

54--Nielsen-Bickmore families-Rock outcrop association, 20 to 60 percent slopes. This map unit is on the west face of the Grouse Creek Mountains and the south face of the Raft River Mountains in the northern part of the survey area. The Nielsen family soil is on ridges and mountainsides, and the Bickmore family soil is on mountainsides. Rock outcrops are on convex ridges and steep escarpments. Slopes are 100 to 300 feet long and face all directions. The present vegetation is dominantly low sagebrush, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass on the Nielsen family soil and mountain big sagebrush, snowberry, and slender wheatgrass on the Bickmore family soil. Elevation is 7,200 to 8,500 feet. The average annual precipitation is about 16 to 22 inches, the mean annual air temperature is 38 to 43 degrees F., and the average freeze-free period is 60 to 80 days.

This unit is 40 percent Nielsen family very gravelly loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes, and 25 percent Bickmore family gravelly loam, 30 to 60 percent slopes and 20 percent Rock outcrop.

Included in this unit are small areas of Eyre family and Shalper soils. The shallow Eyre family soils do not have a layer of clay accumulation in the profile and are on convex ridges and mountainsides under mountainmahogany and bluebunch wheatgrass. The shallow Shalper soils are on mountainsides under black sagebrush and bluebunch wheatgrass. Also included are small areas of shallow cobbly soils, dominantly on the south side of the Raft River Mountains, on mountainsides under Utah juniper. Included areas make up about 15 percent of the total acreage.

The Nielsen family soil is shallow and well drained. It formed in colluvium derived dominantly from quartzite and mica schist. Typically, 75 percent of the surface is covered with gravel, cobbles and stones. The surface layer is brown very gravelly loam 7 inches thick. The subsoil is light yellowish brown very gravelly clay loam 7 inches thick. Fractured bedrock is at a depth of 14 inches.

Permeability of the Nielsen family soil is moderately slow. Available water capacity is about 1 to 1.5 inches. Water supplying capacity is 2 to 6 inches. Effective rooting depth is 10 to 20 inches. The organic matter content of the surface layer is about 5 to 10 percent. Runoff is rapid, and the hazard of water erosion is severe.

The Bickmore family soil is moderately deep and well drained. It formed in colluvium derived dominantly from chert, quartzite, and dolomite. Typically, 20 percent of the surface is covered with gravel. The surface layer is dark grayish brown gravelly loam 3 inches thick. The subsurface layer is brown very gravelly loam 17 inches thick. The subsoil is pale brown and very pale brown very gravelly loam 17 inches thick. Fractured quartzite bedrock is at a depth of 37 inches.

Permeability of the Bickmore family soil is moderate. Available water capacity is about 3 to 4.5 inches. Water supplying capacity is 7 to 10 inches. Effective rooting depth is 20 to 40 inches. The organic matter content of the surface layer is about 5 to 15 percent. Runoff is rapid, and the hazard of water erosion is severe.

Rock outcrop consists of quartzite, mica schist, or chert exposed on ridges and steep mountainsides.

This unit is used mainly for rangeland and wildlife habitat.

The potential plant community on the Nielsen family soil is 50 percent grasses, 20 percent forbs, and 30 percent shrubs. Important plants are low sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and stemless goldenweed.

The suitability for livestock grazing is poor because of reduced forage production. Suitability for range seeding is poor. The main limitations for range seeding are low available water capacity and steep slopes.

The potential plant community on the Bickmore family soil is 65 percent grasses, 15 percent forbs, and 20 percent shrubs. Important plants are Idaho fescue, basin wildrye, mountain big sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, and slender wheatgrass.

The suitability for livestock grazing is good. Suitability for range seeding is poor. The main limitation for range seeding is steep slopes.

The Nielsen family soil is in capability subclass VIIe, nonirrigated, and Mountain Windswept Ridge (Low Sagebrush) range site. The Bickmore family soil is in capability subclass VIIe, nonirrigated, and Mountain Gravelly Loam (Mountain Big Sagebrush) range site. Rock outcrop is in capability class VIII, has not been assigned a range site.

59--Parkay-Broad Canyon families, association, 20 to 60 percent slopes. This unit is in the area of Twin Peaks and along the Grouse Creek Mountains. The Parkay family soil is on leeward mountainsides, and the Broad Canyon family soil is on windward mountainsides, summits, and shoulder slopes (Figure 12). Slopes are facing all directions. They are concave on the Parkay family soil and convex on the Broad Canyon family soil. Slopes commonly are less than 100 feet long. The present vegetation is dominantly mountain big sagebrush, spike-fescue, basin wildrye, Nevada bluegrass and slender wheatgrass on the Parkay family soil and low sagebrush, bottlebrush squirreltail, tapertip hawksbeard, and milkvetch on the Broad Canyon family soil. Elevation is 6,400 to 8,600 feet. The average annual precipitation is about 16 to 22 inches, the mean annual air temperature is 38 to 42 degrees F., and the average freeze-free period is 60 to 80 days.

This unit is 55 percent Parkay family gravelly loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes and 30 percent Broad Canyon family very gravelly loam, 20 to 60 percent slopes.

Included in this unit are small areas of Eyre family and Parkay family, moist soils. The shallow Eyre family soils are associated with Rock outcrop on ridges and steep mountainsides under curlleaf mountainmahogany. Parkay family, moist soils are in sheltered pockets, which receive extra water from thick snowdrifts, under aspen. Also included are small areas of deep, dark colored, wet, loamy textured soils in flat drainageways near springs and perennial streams under Kentucky bluegrass and yellow willow. Included areas make up about 15 percent of the total acreage.

The Parkay family soil is very deep and well drained. It formed in colluvium derived dominantly from quartzite, schist, and gneiss. Typically, 5 percent of the surface is covered with gravel. The surface layer is dark grayish brown gravelly loam and very gravelly loam 19 inches thick. The subsoil to a depth of 60 inches is yellowish brown very gravelly loam and extremely gravelly clay loam. In some areas bedrock is at a depth of 40 to 60 inches.

Permeability of the Parkay family soil is moderate. Available water capacity is about 4.5 to 6.5 inches. Water supplying capacity is 8 to 12 inches. Effective rooting depth is 60 inches or more. The organic matter content of the surface layer is about 5 to 10 percent. Runoff is rapid, and the hazard of water erosion is severe.

The Broad Canyon family soil is deep and well drained. It formed in colluvium derived dominantly from quartzite, schist, and gneiss. Typically, 40 percent of the surface is covered with gravel. The surface layer is brown very gravelly loam 15 inches thick. The subsoil is light yellowish brown extremely gravelly sandy loam and extremely gravelly loamy sand 35 inches thick. Highly weathered schist is at a depth of 50 inches.

Permeability of the Broad Canyon family soil is moderately rapid. Available water capacity is about 2 to 4 inches. Water supplying capacity is 5 to 9 inches. Effective rooting depth is 40 inches or more. The organic matter content of the surface layer is about 5 to 10 percent. Runoff is rapid, and the hazard of water erosion is severe.

This unit is used mainly for rangeland and wildlife habitat.

The potential plant community on the Parkay family soil is 65 percent grasses, 15 percent forbs, and 20 percent shrubs. Important plants are Idaho fescue, basin wildrye, mountain big sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, and slender wheatgrass.

The suitability for livestock grazing is good. Suitability for range seeding is poor. The main limitation for range seeding is steep slopes.

The potential plant community on the Broad Canyon family soil is 50 percent grasses, 20 percent forbs, and 30 percent shrubs. Important plants are low sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and stemless goldenweed.

The suitability for livestock grazing is poor because of reduced forage production. Suitability for range seeding is poor. The main limitations for range seeding are rock fragments in the surface layer and steep slopes.

This map unit is in capability subclass VIIe, nonirrigated. The Parkay family soil is in Mountain Gravelly Loam (Mountain Big Sagebrush) range site. Broad Canyon family soil is in Mountain Windswept Ridge (Low Sagebrush) range site.

81--Skylick-Hoodle association, 15 to 50 percent slopes. This map unit is on mountainsides and hillsides in and around Cotton Thomas Basin. Slopes are concave and 100 to 300 feet long on the Skylick soil and convex and less than 100 feet long on the Hoodle soil. Slopes face all directions. The present vegetation is dominantly mountain big sagebrush, Idaho fescue, Douglas rabbitbrush, and basin wildrye on the Skylick soil and low sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, Hood phlox, and Sandberg bluegrass on the Hoodle soil. Elevation is 6,400 to 7,000 feet. The average annual precipitation is about 16 to 22 inches, the mean annual air temperature is 38 to 42 degrees F., and the average freeze-free period is 60 to 80 days.

This unit is 60 percent Skylick loam, 15 to 40 percent slopes, and 35 percent Hoodle very gravelly loam, 20 to 50 percent slopes.

Included in this unit are small areas of wet, loamy soils in drainage bottoms and on the flats, under tufted hairgrass, silver sagebrush, and Rocky Mountain iris. Also included are areas shallow to limestone under black sagebrush. Included areas make up about 5 percent of the total acreage.

The Skylick soil is very deep and well drained. It formed in colluvium derived dominantly from mixed sedimentary rocks. Typically, 5 percent of the surface is covered with gravel. The surface layer is very dark grayish brown and dark grayish brown loam 25 inches thick. The upper 20 inches of the subsoil is brown and light yellowish brown clay loam. The lower 15 inches is pale brown sandy clay loam. In some areas the depth to the subsoil is less than 25 inches.

Permeability of the Skylick soil is moderately slow. Available water capacity is about 6.5 to 10.5 inches. Water supplying capacity is 10 to 16 inches. Effective rooting depth is 60 inches or more. The organic matter content of the surface layer is about 2 to 10 percent. Runoff is rapid, and the hazard of water erosion is severe.

The Hoodle soil is very deep and well drained. It formed in colluvium derived dominantly from mixed sedimentary rocks. Typically, 70 percent of the surface is covered with gravel. The surface layer is dark grayish brown very gravelly loam and gravelly loam 12 inches thick. The upper 14 inches of the subsoil is brown very gravelly clay loam. The lower 34 inches is very pale brown very gravelly clay loam.

Permeability of the Hoodle soil is moderate. Available water capacity is about 5.5 to 7.5 inches. Water supplying capacity is 9 to 13 inches. Effective rooting depth is 60 inches or more. The organic matter content of the surface layer is about 2 to 5 percent. Runoff is rapid, and the hazard of water erosion is severe.

This unit is used mainly for rangeland and wildlife habitat.

The potential plant community on the Skylick soil is 65 percent grasses, 15 percent forbs, and 20 percent shrubs. Important plants are Idaho fescue, basin wildrye, mountain big sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, and slender wheatgrass.

The suitability for livestock grazing is good. Suitability for range seeding is poor. The main limitation for range seeding is steep slopes.

The potential plant community on the Hoodle soil is 50 percent grasses, 20 percent forbs, and 30 percent shrubs. Important plants are low sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and stemless goldenweed.

The suitability for livestock grazing is poor because of reduced forage production. Suitability for range seeding is poor. The main limitations for range seeding are steep slopes and rock fragments in the surface layer.

This map unit is in capability subclass VIe, nonirrigated. The Skylick soil is in Mountain Gravelly Loam (Mountain Big Sagebrush) range site. The Hoodle soil is in Mountain Windswept Ridge (Low Sagebrush) range site.

M/003/025

We have recently obtained a low-boy equipment transport trailer, and will now be able to move the necessary equipment much more readily than before. It is of utmost importance that we be able to work this quarry area as the weather permits in the winter and spring of 1996. We are willing to commit by legal document, or otherwise, to reclaim that area between the north and south quarries known as the "processing area" as directed by The Forest. And to complete such, prior to the removal and processing of any additional material from the area. Further, we will keep the total of disturbed acres at or under the five acre maximum until such time as the recently submitted P00 for the area is completed and approved.

We feel that as we follow this proposal, The Forest will be able to justify the use of the old NOI for the area, and thus allow without further complication, our working this quarry. Please review this proposal and respond at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

*Bill Bown*

Bill Bown